

Annual Meeting

April 27

Notice of Annual Meeting & Ballots mailed

May 12

Deadline for Ballots*

May 13

Validation & Counting Ballots

May 15

Annual Meeting**

*Return your ballot by May 12 in order to be entered in a drawing for a \$200 electric service credit.

**Continental Breakfast

Catered lunch

Entertainment by The Watchman Quartet of Rocky Mount

Health Fair

Great Door Prizes

Exhibits



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Halifax EMC Earns Safety Accreditation

Halifax Electric Membership Corporation has received national recognition for its comprehensive safety program.

The Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program, which recognized the electric cooperative, is one of the few programs in the country that provides a management tool for continuous safety and loss control assessment that is specific to electric utilities. The program was founded in 1967.

The certificate, the eleventh to be awarded to Halifax EMC, was recently presented to the cooperative's General Manager and Executive Vice President Charles H. Guerry at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) in Raleigh.

Halifax EMC is a member-owned electric cooperative serving nearly 12,000 members in Halifax, Martin, Nash, and Warren Counties.

NCAEC is the trade association for North Carolina's electric cooperatives, a network of electric cooperative organizations that

provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to more than 950,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. North Carolina's electric cooperatives consist of 26 electric co-ops throughout the state. Each is member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties.



Halifax EMC General Manager Charles Guerry and Board of Directors President Beverly Carter with safety award.

Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President
& General Manager*

Board of Directors

BEVERLY CARTER

President, District 8 At-Large

BASIL WILLIAMS

Vice President, District 2

STAN BROTHERS

Sec.-Treas., District 6

ROBERT T. HARRIS

Asst Sec.-Treas., District 5

MORELL JONES

District 1

JERRY PACKER

District 3

LEON S. WILLIAMS

District 4

RICHARD H. GREENE

District 7

ROBERT EDWARDS

District 8 At-Large

Business Hours

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Locations

Enfield: (252) 445-5111

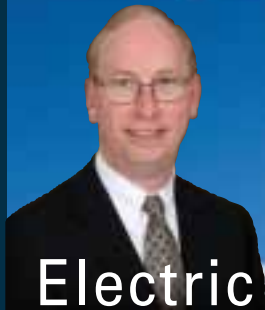
Macon: (252) 257-3900

www.halifaxemc.com

Tell Us...

Halifax EMC is your electric cooperative. Your comments and questions are very important to us. Please tell us how we may improve our service.

Return your comments/questions along with your payment, or e-mail them to bamartin@halifax-emc.com. Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



Electric Lines

Understanding the Cooperative Difference

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

Understanding the Cooperative Difference

More than 70 years ago, Halifax Electric Membership Corporation was formed by citizens in Halifax, Nash, Martin and Warren counties in order to bring electricity to rural homes and businesses. Why did these citizens choose to form a co-op rather than an investor-owned utility (IOU)?

Electric cooperatives are private, independent electric utility businesses that provide electricity on an at-cost of service basis. As an electric cooperative, Halifax EMC is incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina and is owned by the consumers (members) we serve. Our board of directors is made up of consumer-members elected by their fellow members.

Capital Credits versus Stockholder Investments

Because cooperatives are privately owned by those who use the service, operating capital is received through retained margins. After a period of time these margins are returned to the members as capital credits. For an IOU, investors provide operating capital through the purchase of stocks. Those investing in the company may or may not use the service of the utility.

Margins versus Profits

Although both electric cooperatives and IOUs operate under sound busi-

ness principles, the end result is margins versus profits. For the electric cooperative, margins are the difference between income and expenses that are returned to the members (consumers) in the form of capital credits. For an IOU, profits are the difference between income and expenses but are returned to stockholders in the form of dividends, not to the consumers. For IOUs decisions of whether to serve consumers is based on whether it is profitable to serve them (cost per mile of line). Whereas cooperatives serve mainly rural areas and have a requirement to serve, their cost per mile of line is much higher due to the low density of consumers per mile of line. When Halifax EMC was established the cooperative form of business provided the best solution to electrifying the rural areas.

Capital Credits versus Dividends

As members of an electric cooperative, margins are returned to consumers in the form of capital credits. For Halifax EMC members, capital credits are retired after 20 years and are returned to its consumer-members. For IOUs the profits are returned to the stockholders in the form of dividends, not to the consumers who have used the service.

Member versus Stockholder

Both members and stockholders elect a board of directors to oversee the management of the utility. One of

Continued on page 36



Energy-Efficient *Ideas*

The average American household spends \$1,500 annually on energy bills—a number that may go up as much as 50 percent this year. Almost half of that energy goes to heating and cooling your home. As we change from cold to hot weather, it is time to make sure our cooling system is working okay. Here is a few energy saving tips:

- Raise your thermostat to at least 78°. There is a 3 percent reduction in cooling costs for each degree you raise it above 78 degrees when the weather is hot.
- Be sure to change the filter. Changing the filter on a regular basis, such as monthly, keeps your cooling system from working too hard.
- Use your ceiling fans to help circulate the cooled air.
- During the summer, keep your curtains closed during the day to keep out the sun's energy.
- Consider the purchase of a programmable thermostat so that you can set your cooling temperature higher during the day when you are away from home. Your system will not have to come on as much.
- Seal around doors and windows with caulking or weather stripping to keep cool air from leaking out of your home.
- Check for government grants, rebates, and tax credits for energy-related improvements. Both Canada and the United States have programs for consumers.
- Hire an energy consulting company to conduct an audit of your house

Look Out for North Carolina Appliance Rebates April 22–25

The State of North Carolina will implement a two-phase rebate program to help residents replace older, inefficient appliances with ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances.

The phase of the program, scheduled to run April 22–25, will be a limited-time, instant rebate for refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, and dishwashers. A phase two mail-in rebate for several types of water heaters, as well as central air conditioners, is tentatively scheduled to begin in June and will continue until remaining funds are depleted.

The rebates are available from dealers that participate in the program.

If you need to replace your old appliance, now would be a good time to do so with the appliance rebate and with the tax credit on energy efficient appliances.

Be sure to check with your appliance dealer about participation, and also as to whether or not the appliance qualifies for either the rebate or tax credit or both.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Sausage Rice Casserole

- 1 lb. hot sausage
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup chopped bell pepper
- 1/3 cup chopped celery
- 4 1/2 cups water
- 1 cup white rice
- 1 pkg dry chicken noodle soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup

Slivered almonds (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°. Cook sausage, onion, bell pepper, and celery until sausage is brown and vegetables are tender. Drain and set aside.

Bring rice and water to a boil and boil for 7 minutes. Add soups and mix thoroughly.

Add rice mixture to sausage and pour into a large casserole dish.

Bake at 350° for 1 hour. Add almonds during last 15 minutes of cooking. Serve warm.

Enfield Middle School Student Recognized at NC State Women's Basketball Game

Embria Jones of Enfield Middle School was among the 23 young women recognized for receiving a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship to attend the 2009 Kellie Harper Basketball Camp at North Carolina State University, sponsored by Halifax EMC. The scholarship recipients were honored during a special halftime presentation at the Wolfpack Women's basketball game on February 28 against Georgia Tech.



Embria was awarded a scholarship to attend the 2009 Kellie Harper Basketball Camp last June from Halifax EMC. She is the daughter of Alishia and Patrick Jones.

The scholarship winners and their guests were given tickets to attend the game and were treated to a catered lunch. At halftime, the scholarship recipients were recognized on the court, receiving a certificate of achievement from Nelle Hotchkiss, senior vice president of corporate relations for North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship program is part of the electric cooperatives' ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities.

Holiday Closing

*Halifax EMC
will be closed on*

*Friday, April 2,
in celebration of*

Good Friday.

We will re-open for business on

Monday, April 5.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

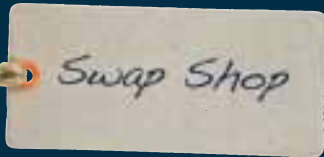
Personnel Changes

There have been some changes in personnel at Halifax EMC recently. Stephanie Green, who was a member services representative at the Enfield office, has moved to the Warren County office of Halifax EMC as a member service representative for the Warren County area.



Kathy Wilson has moved to the operations center in Enfield as the service coordinator. Kathy will be working in the new storm center that opened recently.

Continued from page 34—Electric Lines the major differences is that the member of the cooperative has one vote no matter how many accounts he/she has with the cooperative. Therefore a member cannot elect himself to the board. On the other hand, a stockholder has as many votes as shares he owns in the IOU; therefore, a stockholder could elect himself to the board if he has enough shares.



For sale: Custom car cover to fit any Acura Integra or small car, \$75; 1978 Columbia 10-speed mountain bike, \$75; semi-circular oak bar, \$150. CALL: 252-257-3981 (Macon)

For sale: Frigidaire refrigerator/freezer, side by side w/ice maker, 25 cu. ft., white, good condition, \$150. CALL: 252-826-4766 (Scotland Neck).

Lawn maintenance: Complete lawn maintenance for commercial/residential, fully insured, free estimates. For more details, CALL: 252-904-1598 or 252-826-3957 (Lawn Ranger, Sonny Padgett, Scotland Neck).